

WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

To: Raven Hill friends
From: Cheri
Date: June 8, 2024
Re: *Labyrinth Builders challenge*

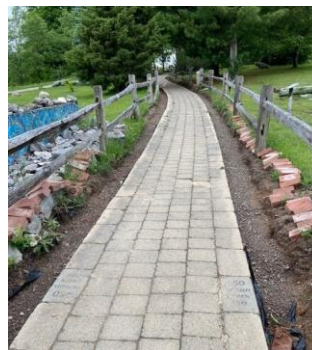
What an exhilarating and action-packed week it was! On Tuesday, we hosted our final spring field trip with 115 energetic first graders and a multitude of enthusiastic parent chaperones, all exploring the wonders of Raven Hill both indoors and outside. Our new **Under Michigan & Beyond** exhibition is growing even more spectacular with the addition of a mesmerizing *Fluorescent Rock and Mineral* display, now ready to dazzle your senses. Meanwhile, exciting upgrades are happening on the Jurassic Park pathway—brick borders are being added to both sides of the existing walk to widen it, enhancing the experience and making it easier for visitors to journey through geologic time.



The Treehouse is always a favorite and Kingsley students were no exception!



The Bookroom has been transformed into the Darkroom, allowing small groups to delight in the display of fluorescent rocks & minerals.



Widening the 350-foot-long Jurassic Park walkway has been a major time & energy commitment. So far, staff & volunteers have worked digging out the dirt, laying down landscape cloth and adding a layer of gravel for drainage. Next steps include putting down a layer of sand and finally arranging the brick border.



Bob Pluister recently donated this model labyrinth to Raven Hill. It shows the classic layout that will be featured in the Ancient World version, including the tradition of the opening facing east.

But wait, that's not all. Raven Hill is inviting everyone to help us build a labyrinth in the Ancient World. Participating **Labyrinth Builders** are invited to bring individual rocks, which will be used collectively to construct a labyrinth. This collaborative event emphasizes community involvement, creativity, plus it is a shared effort to create a symbolic and meditative structure. So, join us at the Obelisk in the Ancient World on Friday, June 21 at 6 PM for an unforgettable evening, including a "community labyrinth construction gathering." We will celebrate the longest day of the year and share in the excitement of creating a grand labyrinth in Raven Hill's Ancient World. Bring a 10 to 12-inch diameter rock to donate and join Raven Hill's elite **Labyrinth Builders Club**. Be a part of this lasting legacy at Raven Hill and leave your special stone for future generations to admire. Don't miss this chance to contribute to an extraordinary and enduring exhibit! If you can't make it on the 21st, bring your special rock

to add to the labyrinth when you visit next, either before or after the Summer Solstice. Participants will receive a certificate of membership in the **Labyrinth Builders Club** and will be invited to join in a celebration of the finished labyrinth at a date yet to be determined.

The concept of the labyrinth originates in ancient Greek mythology. According to myth, the legendary Labyrinth was on the island of Crete. The master craftsman Daedalus designed it to imprison the Minotaur, a half-man, half-bull creature. This famous mythological labyrinth is considered the first labyrinth, influencing mazes and labyrinths in cultures around the world and throughout history.

Labyrinths are often made from locally available materials—stone, earth, mosaic or living plant hedges. The new labyrinth at the Ancient World will naturally extend the current indoor exhibit, **Under Michigan & Beyond**. It will be constructed using local stones left behind 10,000 years ago by the glaciers that once covered Michigan. Summer staff will lay out a classical labyrinth pattern with flags marking the location of each rock. **Labyrinth Builders** will place their donated rocks to form an intricate and permanent pathway, leading to and from a meditative focal point at the center of the labyrinth. This addition will enhance Raven Hill's Ancient World area, once again blurring the boundaries between science, history and art for visitors. Get actively involved in **Under Michigan & Beyond** by donating a rock and becoming a member of the **Labyrinth Builders Club**.

Don't forget to put June 21st at 6pm on your calendar and start looking for that special rock or rocks to bring for the **Labyrinth** project. While you are here, you can also visit the ever evolving **Under Michigan & Beyond** exhibit. Currently, Raven Hill is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm, Saturdays from noon to 4pm and Sundays from 2pm to 4pm, as well as other times by appointment. We look forward to seeing you here soon to explore both indoors and outside.

Cheri



Raven Hill already has a small labyrinth in front of the Main Museum building. It is a favorite of the five-year-old crowd, who often insist on walking all their "big people" through the winding pathways of the labyrinth and doing it one person at a time!